

Applicant : J. Roger Davis et al.
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REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 20, 22, and 28 have been amended in order to place the application in condition for allowance. Claims 2 and 21 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-20, and 22-33 remain present in this application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 28 as being of improper dependent form. Applicants have amended claim 28 to depend from claim 27, thereby rendering the claim objection moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 20, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hudecek et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,207); and rejected claims 7-10, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable by Marrah (U.S. Patent No. 6,526,628) in view of Hudecek et al. The Examiner further indicated that claim 28 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the aforementioned objection, claims 2-6 and 21-23 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and that claims 11-19, 27, and 29-33 are allowed.

In order to expedite allowance of the application, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 20 to include the limitations previously found in claims 2 and 21, respectively, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowed. Claims 2 and 21 are now cancelled. Additionally, claims 3, 5, and 6 have been amended to depend from claim 1, and claim 22 has been amended to depend from claim 20. Accordingly, the application should now be in condition for allowance.

Additionally, Applicants have amended the specification to insert the application serial number cross-referencing a related application, and have made a minor correction to FIG. 11 of the drawing figures. Included herewith is a marked-up annotated sheet showing FIGS. 10B and 11 and correction to FIG. 11. Also submitted is a formal, corrected replacement sheet showing the same figures with the formal correction. Applicants respectfully request approval of the drawing figure correction.

By way of the foregoing amendments, Applicants have placed the application in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

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The remaining prior art made of record was not applied to the claims and thus is not discussed herein. Applicants have reviewed these references and agree with the Examiner that such references do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding patentability of the claims, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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